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ROMAN REMAINS IN THE TOWN AND TERRI-
TORY OF VELLETRI¹

VELLETRI² (ancient Velitrae), in classical times one of the most important and prominent of the Volscian towns, famous also as the original home of the Octavian family,³ lies upon a low hill at the southeast edge of the Alban Range. At its back is the long ridge of the Artemisium, from which, however, it is separated by a distinct depression. That this was the site of the original Volscian as well as of the Roman town is almost certain, although for this there is no actual proof. The well-known bronze tablet of Velletri, written in the Volscian dialect,⁴ was found near the Chiesa delle Stimmate, originally called the Madonna della Neve. At the same time there came to light a number of fragments of a terra-cotta frieze. During the year 1910 slight excavations were conducted in the same neighborhood, and other terra-cotta fragments of the same character were discovered. These finds seem to indicate that here was situated a Volscian temple, upon the remains of which the present church was built.

We have traces of a still earlier settlement on or near the

¹ This investigation was undertaken at the suggestion of Director Jesse Benedict Carter, to whom, and also to Mr. A. W. Van Buren of the American School, and to Sig. Cav. O. Nardini, Inspector of Antiquities at Velletri, I desire to express my thanks for their assistance in its prosecution. I am indebted to Mr. J. H. Ten Eyck Burr for the majority of the photographs which appear in this article.

Dr. Thomas Ashby, Director of the British School in Rome, has very kindly given this article a preliminary reading and has, himself, gone over the ground covered by it. I wish to express my great indebtedness to him for countless suggestions and several very important additions.

² To the full bibliography given by Tomassetti, *La Campagna Romana*, Vol. II, pp. 346 ff., should be added Attilio Gabrielli, *Illustrazioni Storico-Artistiche di Velletri*, Velletri, 1907; and Augusto Tersenghi, *Velletri e le sue Contrade*, Velletri, 1910.

³ Suetonius, *Aug.* 1.

⁴ Mommsen, *Unterit. Dial.* 320; Fabretti, *Corpus Inscript. Italic.* 2736; Deecke, *Rh. Mus.* XLI, 1886, p. 200.

site. In 1893 a *tomba a pozzo* of the Iron Age was found near Velletri in the Vigna d' Andrea to the south of the former Vigna Barbi, now the experimental station for American vines, to the east of the town. The tomb had a beehive roof, and was 1 m. high and 1 m. in diameter.¹ (T.A.)

The strategical position of Velitrae was important, inasmuch as it commanded from its position on the southern slopes of the outer rim of the Alban Volcano the passage between it and the Volscian Hills, and enjoyed a fine view of the whole Pontine Plain. The site of the town itself was rendered very strong by nature, as it is almost entirely surrounded by deep ravines except on the south, where the ground slopes away gradually towards the plain. On the north, only a narrow neck connects it with the higher ground behind.²

What is known of the history of Velitrae may be summarized very briefly.³ In all the various struggles between the Volscians and the Romans, as recounted by Livy, Dionysius, and others, its inhabitants played a prominent part. Dionysius⁴ places the first conflict between Velitrae and Rome in the time of King Ancus Marcius. The annalists, therefore, considered the town as having belonged originally to the Volscians. This is, however, generally regarded as unlikely. It was probably originally a Latin settlement, and was captured by the Volscians at some time not far from 499 B.C.⁵ The people of Velitrae are credited with having shared in the defeat administered to the Latins by the Romans at Lake Regillus. About the year 494 a Roman colony was placed in the town.⁶ This was enlarged by new colonies sent in 491⁷ and in 404 B.C.⁸

In 393 the struggle was renewed, and subsequent encounters, with defeats administered to the people of Velitrae, are

¹ Barnabei in *Not. Scav.* 1893, p. 200; Pinza in *Mon. Ant.* XV, 1905, p. 342.

² Nissen, *Italische Landeskunde*, II, 2, p. 632.

³ Mommsen, *C.I.L.* X, 1, p. 651; Nibby, *Dintorni di Roma*, III, pp. 438 ff.

⁴ III, 41.

⁵ Nissen, *Italische Landeskunde*, II, 2, p. 632; Ihne, *History of Rome*, I, p. 232. Mommsen (*History of Rome*, V, p. 445) considers Velitrae as originally Volscian.

⁶ Dionysius, VI, 42; Livy, II, 30.

⁷ Dionysius, VII, 12; Livy, II, 34.

⁸ Diodorus, XIV, 34, 7.

recorded as taking place continuously down to 338 B.C. In that year occurred the great contest between the Romans and the Latin League. The people of Velitrae, together with those of Aricia and Lanuvium, suffered final defeat at the hands of C. Maenius at the river Astura.¹ Among the punishments inflicted by the Romans, that of Velitrae was most severe. Its walls were thrown down and its senators were deported to Rome and caused to dwell across the Tiber. The confiscated lands were conferred upon Roman colonists.²

From this time, with the exception of a passage in Silius Italicus,³ who mentions Velitrae among the colonies which sent their contingents against Hannibal, the references are scattered and of no historical importance, and we hear little or nothing of the place except as the home of the *gens Octavia*. Then, as now, its wine was famous, although, according to Pliny, inferior to Falernian.⁴

ROADS⁵

De la Blanchère⁶ enumerates the following roads as radiating from Velitrae :

1. A road to Lanuvium, which would correspond with the old track going westward from Velletri past S. Nicola and S. Eurosia to the Casale dei Gendarmi, where it joins the modern Via Appia Nuova. Upon this track there are now no traces of paving *in situ*, but there are several cuttings which are probably of ancient origin. Along the track going north to the west of S. Nicola, there are numerous paving-stones, which, whether they belong to the main track or to the side path, seem, at least, to prove the antiquity of the former, while the side path also has some ancient-looking cuttings.

2. A road to Torre del Padiglione, or rather Campomorto (the so-called Selciatella di Lazzaria), which passes by the ruins known as Sole e Luna.

¹ Livy, VIII, 12 and 13 ; Ihne, *l.c.* I, p. 363.

² Livy, VIII, 14, 5.

³ VIII, 377.

⁴ Pliny, *Nat. Hist.* XIV, 65.

⁵ The following notes on roads were given me entirely by Dr. Ashby.

⁶ 'Un Chapitre de l'Histoire Pontine' (in *Mémoires présentés à l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-lettres*, Vol. X), p. 48.

3. A road to Satricum, traces of which were seen by him in the Vigna Capoccio in the Regione Paganica in 1884. They are still visible. According to him, it divided before reaching the Via Appia, one branch going to Campomorto on Conca, the other towards Sessano. The former would, no doubt, be the road which passes close to the Cento Archi (Cento Colonne) and Civitana.

4. A road to Cori, of which he saw traces. It passed close to the Torrecchia Vecchia.

5. A road to Giulianello, of which he also saw traces (the Via Piazza di Mario). The pavement of this may still be seen *in situ* at the Casale Belisario, where it is 2.10 m. — *i.e.* 7 Roman feet — in width.¹

6. A road to the Civita above Artena, the pavement of which was found in 1899 at about 3 kilometres from Velletri on the modern road to Lariano, at a place called Pietre Liscie,² while De la Blanchère saw traces of it farther on near Fontana di Papa. A branch of it, as he rightly says, ran on to the Via Latina.³

To the roads enumerated by De la Blanchère should be added :

1. A track going due west from the Porta Romana at the north end of the modern town, and entering the highroad⁴ between the twenty-sixth and twenty-fifth miles from Rome. It leaves this again a little to the west of the twenty-fifth mile, goes northwest past the Casale Rossetti and the Fontana Pelara, and to the north of the Monte Canino, entering the road from Nemi to Genzano to the east of the Casale Fornaccio.

2. There may well have been a road to Nemi or the Valle Vivaro passing over the rim of the outer crater of the Alban Volcano. A path ascending northward from the Porta Romana past the Cappuccini and the Villa Antonelli seems to be of ancient origin in its first portion, having some paving-stones as curbstones and being sunk in a deep cutting ; but the evidence is not sufficient to affirm the antiquity of this or of any of the

¹ On the left of this road, about 2 kilometres from Velletri, in the place called S. Anna, in the Vigna Poccia a leaden coffin was found with the skeleton of a woman and a coin of Aurelian (?) (*Not. Scav.* 1909, p. 59).

² *Not. Scav.* 1899, p. 338.

³ *Papers of the British School*, V, p. 418.

⁴ The highroad referred to is not the new road followed by the electric tramway.

other paths which ascend the mountain behind Velletri. The tufa rock is soft and a deep depression may easily have been created by the traffic of centuries.

CITY WALLS

After the destruction of the walls of the city in 339 B.C., no mention is made of any restoration. In the *Notizie degli Scavi*¹ are reports of the discovery of some foundations of the ancient wall. None of them are now visible. The excavations in which they were discovered were made on the site of the ancient necropolis. From the fact that the graves dating from the Roman period lay within the circuit of the wall, Di Tucci, the inspector of antiquities at that time, concluded that the Roman city was somewhat smaller in size than that of Volscian times.

The lower parts of the south and west walls of the church of San Giuseppe are composed of large rectangular blocks of tufa, of which on the south side there are six rows. Tersenghi² connects these with another wall discovered by Di Tucci while making repairs to the church of S. Michele Arcangelo in 1874, and concludes that they form part of the ancient wall of the Arx of the city. However, the blocks in the wall of San Giuseppe are obviously not *in situ*, but have been relaid in the construction of the church. They may very well have come from an ancient wall in the neighborhood. The church in question stands at the foot of the slight eminence upon which stands the Palazzo Municipale, and which must have served as the Arx, if any such existed.

TEMPLES

From the authors and from a few inscriptions, we know of several temples which must have stood in the city itself or in the immediate neighborhood.

Apollo and Sancus, Hercules. — The existence of these temples is proved by Livy, XXXII, 1, 10: “. . . et Veliterni Apollinis et Sancti aedes, et in Herculis aede capillum enatum.” Their location is entirely unknown.³

¹ 1880, pp. 168 ff. ; 1885, p. 47.

² *l.c.* p. 56.

³ Bauco, *Storia della città di Velletri*, I, p. 480 ; Gabrielli, *l.c.* p. 61 ; Nibby, *Dintorni di Roma*, III, p. 446.

Mars. — Our only evidence is Suetonius, *Aug.* 1: "et ostendebatur ara Octavio consecrata, qui bello dux finitimo, cum forte Marti rem divinam faceret. . . ." This passage may refer, however, simply to an altar and not to a temple. In accordance with their usual custom, the local historians identify the site of the temple with that of the present church of San Clemente. Borgia,¹ on the strength of *C.I.L.* X, 1, 6582, discovered while excavating for the foundations of the episcopal residence, identified some remains of *opus reticulatum*, found in 1778 near the entrance of the church and later destroyed, as belonging to the temple.² There are now no remains or authentic proof for this temple.

Immediately back of the apse of San Clemente is a large underground water reservoir of Roman construction. It consists of two vaulted chambers, each about 20 m. long and 3.50 m. wide. The top of the roof is 3 m. above the present floor level. The two chambers are connected by eight arched openings, each being 1 m. wide. The whole is built of concrete and lined with *opus signinum*. Volpi,³ without reason, attributes it to the temple of Mars.

Sol and Luna. — From the name Solluna, now given to a section of the territory of Velletri near the line of the old Via Appia, about 4 kilometres from Velletri, it might be possible to conclude that here was located a temple of Sol and Luna, though the conjecture is, of course, a doubtful one. In 1905 there were discovered a large number of terra-cotta votive offerings which may have come from the old temple.⁴ A platform (about 40 m. × 20 m.) extending from east to west, and distant about 60 m. from the place where the terra-cottas were found, may belong to the foundations of the temple.⁵

At this point for a considerable distance there is a splendidly preserved portion of the Via Appia. The entire width of the

¹ *De Cruce Veliterna*, p. 211, note a.

² Cf. *C.I.L.* X, 1, 6582 and references.

³ Volpi, *Vet. Lat.* IV, p. 37 and tav. 1.

⁴ *Not. Scav.* 1905, p. 40.

⁵ Bauco, *l.c.* I, p. 481; Volpi, *l.c.* IV, p. 48 and pl. 8, who figures ruins on each side of the road, the nature of which is by no means clear. Dr. Ashby states that his identification of these remains with the tomb drawn by Labruzzi (III, p. 50; cf. *Mél. Arch. Hist.* XXIII, 1903, p. 402) is erroneous.

road is 8 m., the central portion being 4 m. in width. The paving of the centre is entirely preserved, while on either side at a distance of 2 m. the boundary stones are plainly visible.

Fortuna. — The only evidence is *C.I.L.* X, 1, 6554. | . . . | Geminus . . . | praetor q. IIII | . . . succe . . . | . . . Antoni . . . | . . . | aedes. Fortunae.

OTHER REMAINS IN THE TOWN

Two public buildings other than temples are known, both mentioned in inscriptions.

Basilica. — In the north wall of a building facing the Via Metabo just as it enters the Piazza Umberto I is the inscription *C.I.L.* X, 1, 6588 (s. m. f | *faci* undam *curavit* | . . . o. ad. basilicam), which may refer to a basilica.¹ At present the only letters visible are M, and in the next line below, DA. The whole wall has been covered with plaster, which may conceal the other blocks of peperino referred to by Stevenson.²

In the building immediately across the short street leading from the Piazza Umberto I to the church of San Clemente, and facing the one mentioned above, the north wall, 5 m. in length, and the west wall immediately adjoining for a length of 3 m. are formed of large regular tufa blocks. These belonged to an earlier building and are much weathered. They are visible only in the interior. They must have been taken from some Roman wall in the immediate neighborhood.

Amphitheatre. — A restoration of the amphitheatre at the time of the Emperors Valens and Valentinian (364–375 A.D.) is mentioned in *C.I.L.* X, 1, 6565.³ This is the only reference to such a building, but proves its existence.

To the west of the Porta Napoli there is a small piece of *opus reticulatum* in selce, and the south half of the stretch of wall going north from this point is built upon Roman concrete of selce with a *reticulatum* wall about 3 m. in front of it. These walls may be the lower part of a cryptoporticus. (T. A.)

In 1903 a tomb was discovered within the city in the cellar

¹ Cf. discussion in *C.I.L.* l.c.

² Cf. *C.I.L.* l.c.; Bauco, l.c. I, p. 482.

³ Now in the museum at Velletri.

of a house at No. 104 of the Via Paolina. In it was a sarcophagus of peperino, which contained a skeleton with two vases of the Iron Age and two Campanian vases which Nardini attributes to the first century B.C.¹ (T. A.)

TERRITORY OF VELLETRI

In the territory immediately surrounding Velletri there are numerous remains of Roman work, and there is evidence for the existence of a number of Roman villas, either in the form of walls existing at the present time, or in the names of the localities in which they were situated.

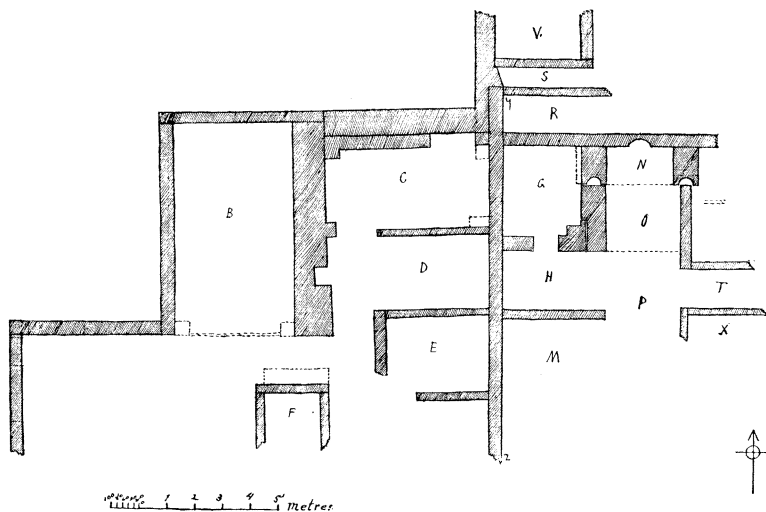


FIGURE 1. — STATION VILLA. PLAN OF MAIN GROUP OF ROOMS.

At the side of the road leading from the town to the railway station, in what are now the public gardens, as the result of excavations there have come to light a number of walls probably belonging to a small Roman villa. The plan of these is given in Figure 1.

The main group of rooms is divided into two parts by a wall of large tufa blocks which runs through the whole width of the building (Fig. 2). These blocks vary in length from 1.70 m. to 2 m. and in width from 0.43 m. to 0.50 m. At its north end

¹ *Not. Scav.* 1903, p. 228.

the wall is six blocks in height, then five, and finally four. There is no communication through this wall between the rooms on either side. In addition, blocks of tufa are used in the construction of several of the other walls, as for example in the wall between H and M, both walls of X, the wall between C and D, and the west wall of E. The presence of other blocks, such as a line in front of B and another back of F, is indicated by dotted lines.



FIGURE 2.—STATION VILLA. WALL OF TUF A BLOCKS.

The walls as a rule are built of concrete faced with *opus mixtum* or *opus incertum*. The *opus mixtum* varies from very good work with rectangular blocks of selce and regular courses of brick (see Fig. 2) to very rough work with irregularly shaped blocks of selce and bricks following no exact lines. *Opus reticulatum* occurs only in the central niche of N, a small piece 0.65 m. wide in the south wall of H at a height of about 1 m., where it joins the long tufa wall, another small piece in the north wall of G, and some at the bottom of the wall between H and G.

In the front of each side wall of N there is a small niche made of brick (Fig. 3). They are the only portions of the building in which brick is used alone as a facing. The walls themselves, which are unusually thick, are of concrete. The interiors of these niches were lined with stucco. In the north wall of N is a larger niche, already referred to. The walls of N were originally faced with marble (as was also the front of each side wall), the holes for attaching the slabs being still

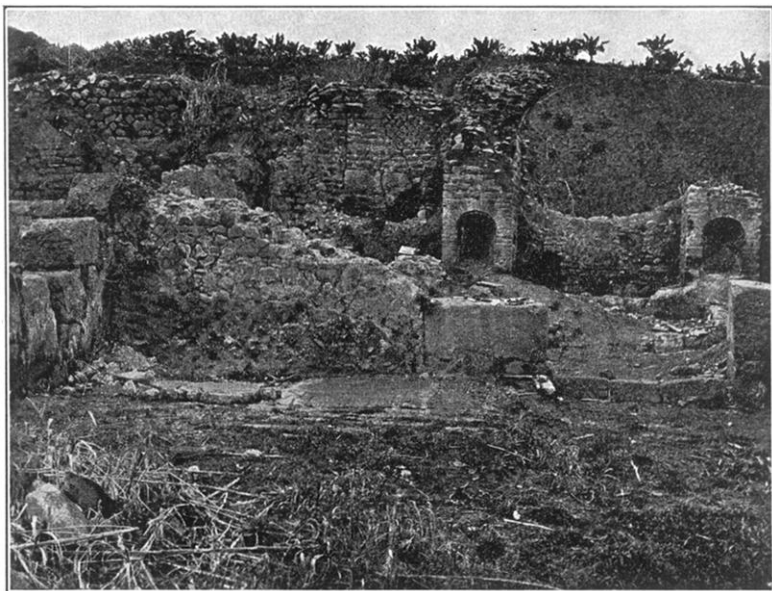


FIGURE 3. — STATION VILLA. NICHES.

visible. The room was covered with a vaulted roof. The use of this room is not easy to determine. It may have served as a small chapel. The floor level is slightly higher than that of O, which in turn is higher than that of P.

At another period, by the building of the side walls of O, the two small niches must have been completely blocked up. Possibly at the same time the floor level of H was lowered. The present pavement of H is formed of *opus signinum*. Originally, however, it consisted of a black and white mosaic, as is proved by the fact that the south end of the west wall of O

was built on top of the mosaic floor of H, of which there are traces beneath the wall at a level 0.10 m. higher than the present floor level of H.

The pavement of M is formed of a black and white mosaic (Fig. 4). The pattern in white occupies merely the middle of the room, while all around is a broad band of black, the



FIGURE 4.—STATION VILLA. MOSAIC IN ROOM M.

individual cubes becoming coarser and larger as they approach the wall, until finally they are laid flat instead of on end. This would seem to indicate that only the pattern was intended to be visible. Possibly, therefore, this room served as the triclinium with the couches resting upon the black border. As the same form of pavement is found in H, the two rooms may originally have been united. The intervening wall may, then,

have been built later, at the time when the west wall of O was built and the floor level of H was lowered.

The floor of G, which is 0.25 m. above that of H, was paved with marble. It is entered from H through an opening 0.90 m. wide, and in the wall at each side of the entrance, at a height of 0.23 m., is a slab of travertine 0.46 m. \times 0.34 m. \times 0.10 m. (see Fig. 2). Before the west wall of O was built, G must have been directly accessible from O. In about the middle of

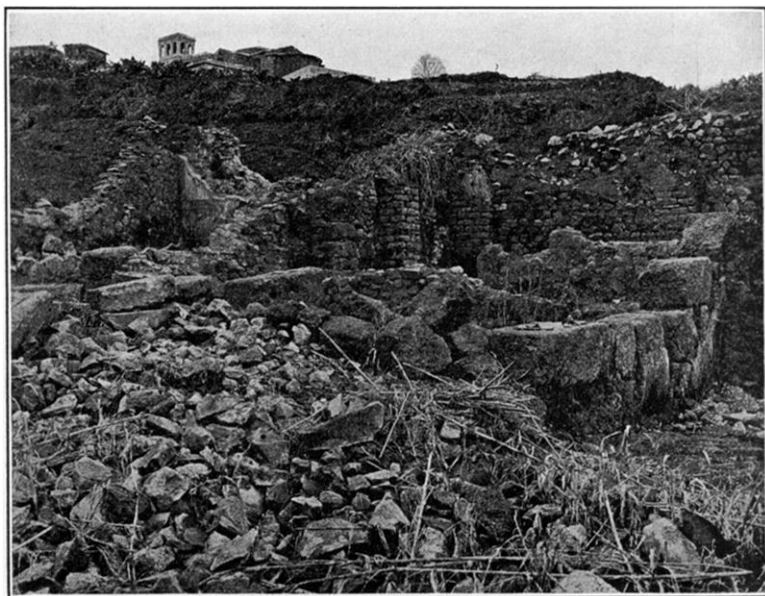


FIGURE 5.—STATION VILLA. WESTERN ROOMS.

the north wall is a break. Originally the part of the wall to the right of the break must have been lacking and there was access here to rooms at the back of G.

The walls of the rooms to the west of the long tufa wall (Fig. 5) are not exactly in line with those to the east, but meet the tufa wall at a slight angle (doubtless due to their slipping down the embankment). The walls of room B were covered with stucco, and there are still a few traces of painting. The floor level is 0.60 m. above that of the adjoining rooms and along the front is a row of tufa blocks. In the

middle of the north wall there seems to have been an opening which was later filled in.

Immediately back of room G are two passages, R and S, and a small room, V. Both R and S are too narrow to have served as rooms, and may have contained stairways to an upper story. The west wall of R is formed by a continuation of the long tufa wall, while the west walls of S and V, as well as the other walls, are of concrete. At about the middle of R, the top of a cross-wall of *opus reticulatum* is visible. These rooms may have been accessible from G.

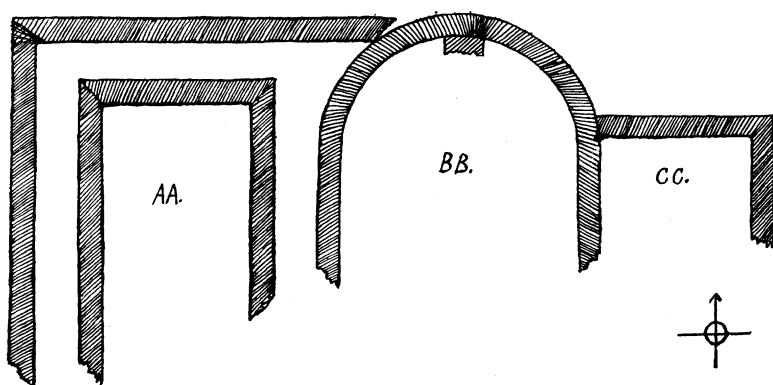


FIGURE 6.—STATION VILLA. ROOMS AA, BB, CC, PLAN.

At about 30 m. to the west of the main group is a second (Fig. 6) consisting of three rooms. The one farthest to the west, AA (Fig. 7), consists of two sets of parallel walls with a passage between. In the northeast corner of this passage are two steps, and in the east corridor is a very well-preserved mosaic pavement. It consists of alternate squares of a white figure on a black ground and of a black figure on a white ground (Fig. 8). The walls are faced with *opus incertum*, but in the inner walls a number of flanged tiles are used. In these the flanges are retained, and the tiles are laid in such a manner that the flange is on the outside of the wall. From the north outer wall rises the beginning of a vaulted roof.

The adjoining room BB consists of an arc of a circle with the ends on each side prolonged in a straight line to the south. The walls here also are of *opus incertum* with a few flanged

tiles. At the central point of the apse is a small concrete base 0.80 m. long, which possibly served as the base of a statue (Fig. 9). Next to this room is the much smaller one, CC.

Still farther to the west are a number of walls, probably those of rooms. However, they are so scattered that no regular plan can be made.

It is impossible to assign any definite date to this structure. As has been said, there must have been several periods, the



FIGURE 7.—STATION VILLA. ROOM AA.

oldest represented by the existing tufa wall. On account of the rough workmanship, the majority of the walls would seem to belong in general to rather late Roman times. During the excavations the brick-stamp, *C.I.L.* XV, 1, 1334, dating from the first century A.D., was found.

Villa Negroni. — We may place the site of an ancient villa on the slope to the west of the Villa Negroni to the north-north-west of the town, where there is much débris on the surface of the ground, although no walls are visible, having been buried under the accumulation of soil. (T. A.)

Monte Artemisio. — A mile and a half to the north of the city, below the contrada del Peschio, on the lower slopes of the Monte Artemisio and not far, probably, from the Villa Negroni, excavations were made in 1794 in the remains of a Roman villa of *opus reticulatum*. Some fragments of sculpture were found, and an hermaphrodite lying on a rock.¹ (T. A.)

San Cesareo. — The vineyard known as San Cesareo (Vigna Marchetti on the Italian map) lies about three kilometres to

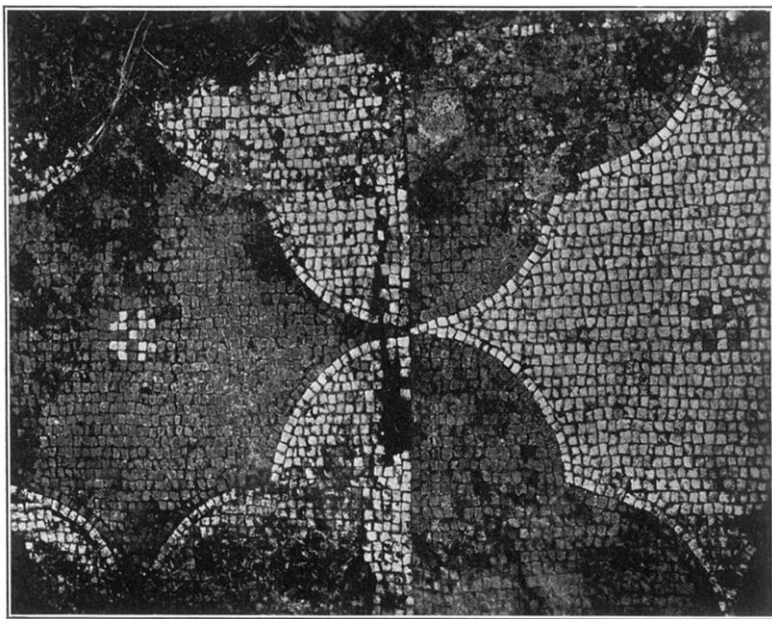


FIGURE 8. — STATION VILLA. MOSAIC IN AA.

the west of Velletri.² Here are the remains of an extensive Roman villa, and, doubtless owing to the name of the locality, it has been popularly identified as the villa of the Octavian family to which the Emperor Augustus belonged.³ Such a villa is mentioned by Suetonius.⁴ Here were found in 1780 a head

¹ *Cat. Louvre*, No. 323 ; Froehner, *Notice*, No. 375 ; Visconti, *Opere Varie*, IV, p. 59, note 2.

² By road, but only a mile (about 1.60 km.) in a straight line.

³ Tomassetti, *La Campagna Romana*, II, p. 350 ; Bauco, *l.c.* p. 472.

⁴ *Aug.* 6.

of Augustus with the civic crown¹ and a bust of Hannibal, both now in Naples.

The villa was built upon a large terrace measuring approximately 115 m. \times 80 m. and facing towards the south. At the southwest corner there is visible a small portion of the retaining wall of concrete faced with *opus reticulatum*. The northern boundary is formed by a second terrace, against the front of which several rooms were built. A number of the walls are

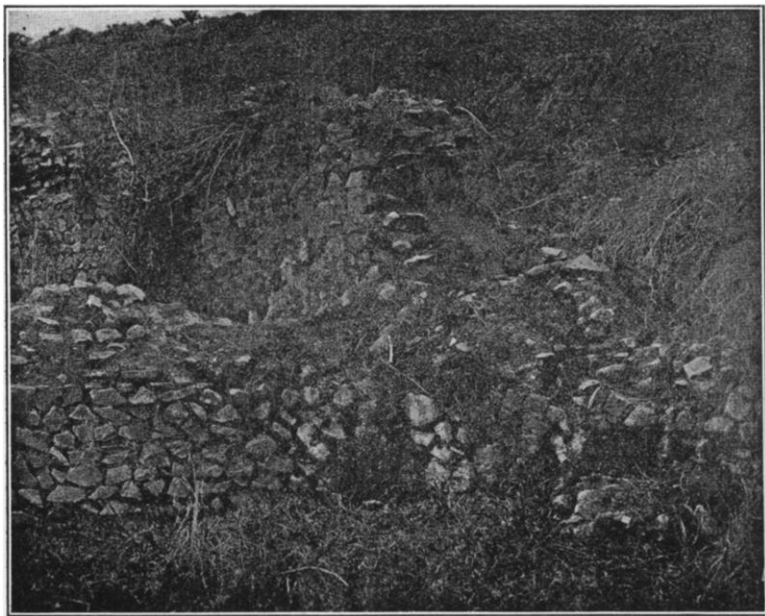


FIGURE 9.—STATION VILLA. ROOM BB.

still standing. In one of these rooms fragments of the stucco facing can be seen; as well as the beginning of a vaulted roof, belonging probably to a cryptoporticus.

To the west of these rooms and extending back into the upper terrace is a very well preserved water-reservoir (Fig. 10). It consists of three parallel chambers, each 15 m. long, 4 m. wide, and 2.40 m. high.² Each chamber communicates with

¹ Baucó, *l.c.* I, 479; Winckelmann, *Werke*, VI, p. 172 n.; Bernoulli, *Röm. Ikon.* II, 1, p. 37, n. 1.

² Gatti, *Not. Scav.* 1910, p. 188.

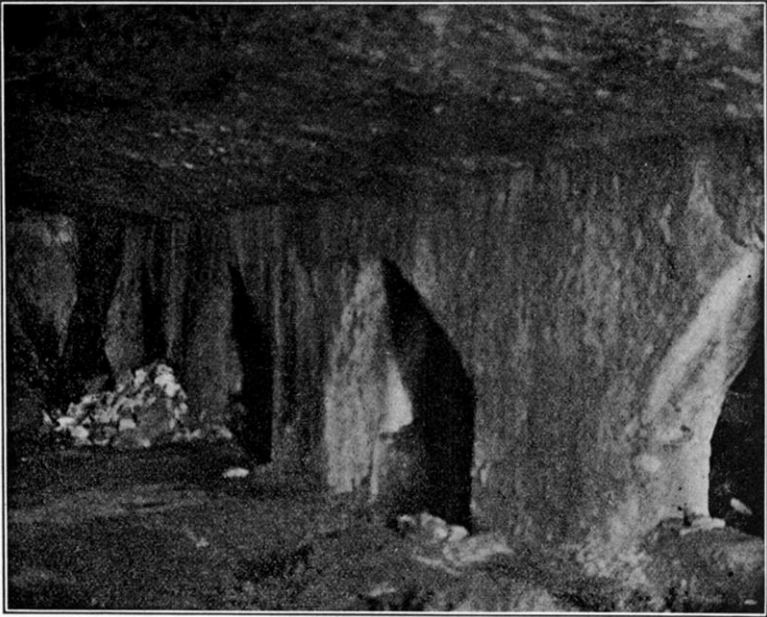


FIGURE 10.—SAN CESAREO. RESERVOIR.

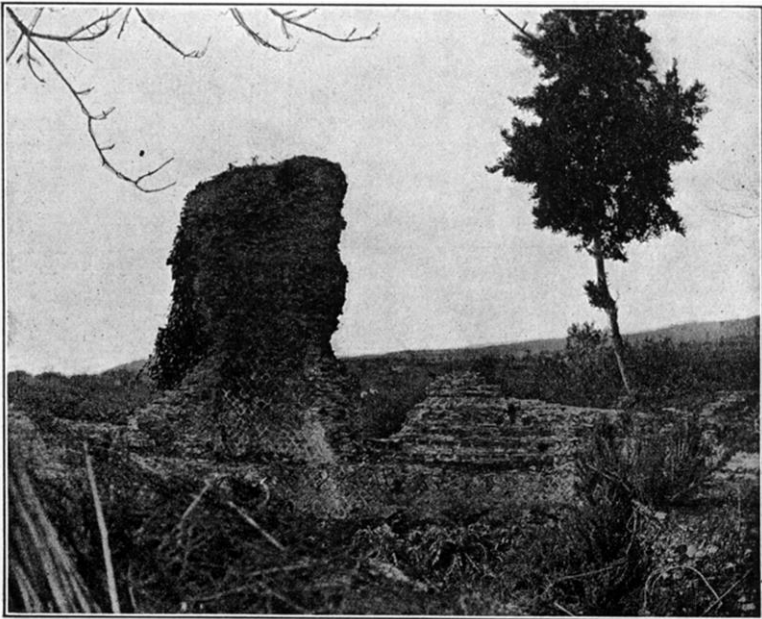


FIGURE 11.—SAN CESAREO. SEMICIRCULAR BASIN.

the next by means of five arched openings, the arch in each case being pointed. The vaulted roofs of the chambers are also slightly pointed. The walls are lined with *opus signinum*.

On the western edge of the terrace are three structures forming a part of the baths of the villa. That at the northwest



FIGURE 12. — SAN CESAREO. BUTTRESS.

corner (Fig. 11) consists of a semicircular basin with a diameter of 8.50 m. It was heated by a hypocaust, the floor being supported by pillars of tiles. In front of this are the foundations of a smaller square room with dimensions of about 2.90 m. \times 2.90 m. The wall of the semicircular structure contains five niches, of which the central one is semicircular. It is 1.30 m. wide, 0.75 m. deep, and 2.10 m. high. On either side of this are two rectangular niches 2.40 m. wide and 0.60 m. deep. The central niche is faced with *opus reticulatum*, the others with *opus mix-*

tum of selce and bricks. Below the niches a band of *opus reticulatum* extends around the room. Above the central niche are the beginnings of a vaulted roof.

Behind each niche at the back of the wall is a buttress of concrete (Fig. 12) faced with *opus mixtum*, measuring about 1.07 m. \times 1.06 m. Four of these buttresses are well preserved, while

that farthest to the left is still buried in the ground. Between the first and second buttresses, starting from the right, and between the third and fourth are two small square passages through the wall just above the ground, probably for the passage of water.

At a short distance to the south are the remaining two structures. The tops of the walls are now all on a level with the surrounding ground, and they may never have risen above this. The first is circular in shape, with a diameter of about 5.50 m. The second consists of three apses, the central one having a diameter of 4 m., while the two side ones are smaller. The large apse is entirely filled in by a platform of concrete faced with brick, except for an open passage of the shape shown in figure 13. The wall of the first structure is faced with very rough *opus reticulatum*, that of the second with *opus mixtum*. Both structures have drains for the passage of water.

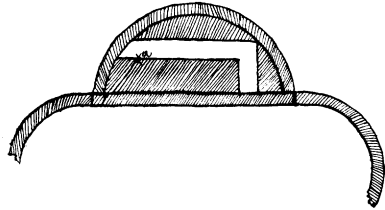


FIGURE 13.—SAN CESAREO. STRUCTURE WITH THREE APSSES.

On the eastern edge of the terrace are the badly damaged walls of a vaulted room. Near it are two large masses of concrete, showing on one side part of a vault, on the other a mosaic pavement formed of small cubes of selce 0.015 m. to 0.02 m. square, and 0.028 m. deep. Scattered over the vineyard are architectural fragments, such as bits of mosaic pavement, portions of columns, and so on.

In the south wall of a house built into one of the rooms of the Roman villa, the walls of which are composed largely of ancient fragments, several letters of an inscription on a slab of travertine can be distinguished. The inscription was evidently broken up to serve as building material, and only four small fragments are now visible. On one are the letters $\begin{smallmatrix} \text{DV} \\ \text{IC} \end{smallmatrix} \left(\begin{smallmatrix} \text{DV} \\ \text{IC} \end{smallmatrix} \right)$ or if reversed $\begin{smallmatrix} \text{DI} \\ \text{C} \end{smallmatrix} \left(\begin{smallmatrix} \text{DI} \\ \text{AC} \end{smallmatrix} \right)$; on the second $\begin{smallmatrix} \text{IM} \\ \text{C} \end{smallmatrix}$; on the third $\begin{smallmatrix} \text{VC} \\ \text{S.P} \end{smallmatrix}$; and on the fourth OP.¹

¹ Dr. Ashby reads the second fragment $\begin{smallmatrix} \text{M} \\ \text{MI} \end{smallmatrix}$. The first line of the third is not plain; Dr. Ashby notes RIC and a fragment of a V.

Numerous brick-stamps have been found at San Cesareo and are published by Gatti.¹ They date from the year 123 A.D. This date is in general harmony with the type of construction in the walls still standing. Gatti distinguishes several periods in the building, placing the original construction in the first century A.D., with several successive reconstructions down to the fourth century. There does not seem to be sufficient evidence to justify this, however, in the scanty remains now standing.

Rioli. — In the district known as Rioli, to the west and southwest of San Cesareo, there was evidently a villa built upon two

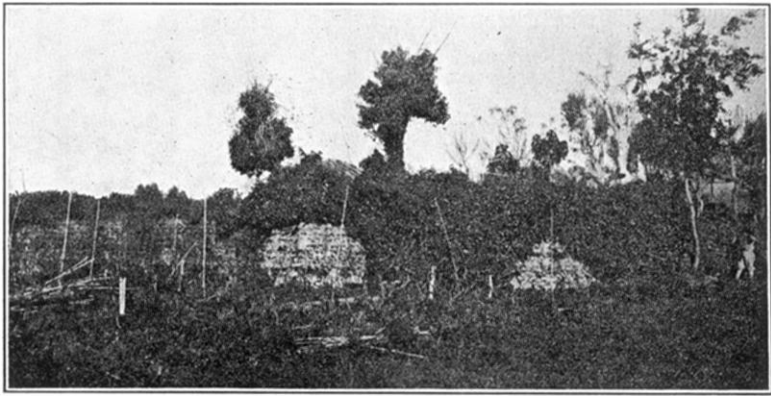


FIGURE 14. — RIOLI. RESERVOIR.

terraces facing south. A small piece of the retaining wall of the upper terrace, built of concrete faced with *opus incertum*, can still be seen. On the east edge of the lower and larger terrace the retaining wall is visible for some distance, and reaches the height of 3.50 m.

Upon the upper terrace is a water-reservoir the exterior of which forms a rectangular platform of concrete 3 m. in height at its highest point (Fig. 14). The interior of the reservoir consists of four chambers, each 35.50 m. \times 3.50 m. They communicate each with the other by means of thirteen arched open-

¹ *Not. Scav.* 1910, p. 190. To the list given by him Dr. Ashby adds the following, which he saw at Velletri in June, 1905: *C.I.L.* XV, 272, 447, 454 C, 494 A (all 123 A.D., the last two *in situ*), 580 b (Hadrian), 1230 (124 A.D.), 1339 (123 A.D.).

ings, each of which is 1.30 m. wide. The top of the vaulted roof is 4 m. above the floor level.

Colle Ottone. — On the Colle Ottone at or near the Casa Filippi, which had formerly belonged to the Toruzzi family, Volpi¹ saw the ruins of a large reservoir, 140 palms long and 40 palms wide (31.22 m. × 8.92 m.), divided into three chambers by two walls, in each of which were ten arched apertures. He describes it as the ruins of a most magnificent villa, said to have belonged to the Emperor Otho. He also notes the existence of fragments of a mosaic pavement. The Casa Filippi is situated some three miles to the west of Velletri, a little to the north of the railway, and to the south of the Casotto dei Gen-



FIGURE 15. — CEN TO ARCHI.

darmi.² Several inscriptions are said by the older authorities to have been found in this immediate neighborhood.³ (T. A.)

Cento Archi (Cento Colonne). — Along the course of the Via Appia where it passes through the territory of Velletri are several interesting remains of Roman work. One of the modern roads leading from the Porta Napoletana intersects the Via Appia at a distance of about 5 kilometres from the city. At this point the ancient road crosses a small stream on a bridge

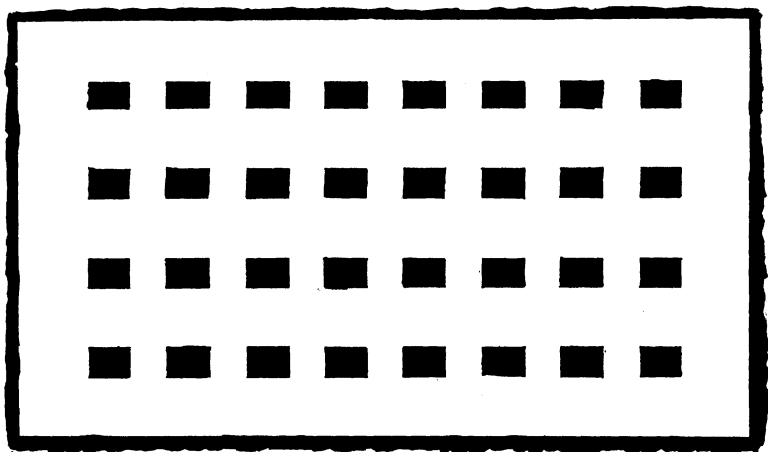
¹ *Vet. Lat.* IV, p. 60 and tav. 9; cf. Baucó, *l.c.* I, p. 472; Teoli, *Teatro storico di Velletri*, p. 108.

² See above, p. 401.

³ *C.I.L.* VI, 8526, 17682; X, 6553, 8053, 55, C; Teoli, *l.c.* p. 108; Volpi, *l.c.* IV, p. 41; Cardinali, *Iscr. Vel.* Nos. 3, 169.

of Roman construction, known as the Ponte di Miele. It consists of a single arch, about 4 m. high, formed of large tufa blocks.¹

Proceeding south from this point along the Via Appia, of which a considerable amount of the old paving is preserved, we soon reach a branch road 2.40 m. in width, which, about 90 m. farther on, passes the remains of a large reservoir covering a space of 39.14 m. \times 21.3 m. (Figs. 15 and 16). This is known as Cento Archi or Le Cento Colonne. It consists of five chambers opening one into the other by means of nine



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 METRES

FIGURE 16.—CENTO ARCHI. PLAN OF RESERVOIR.

arches. Originally there were thirty-two pillars, of which four are now destroyed. The roof of each chamber (3.50 m. high) was formed of quadripartite vaulting, which is now broken through in many places. The whole is built below ground, the top being on a level with the surrounding country. The construction is of concrete faced with *opus mixtum*. Volpi² gives a drawing of this reservoir. The plan in the text, which is based on measurements taken by Professor Lanciani, was drawn by Mr. F. G. Newton, a student at the British School at Rome.

¹ Cf. *Mél. Arch. Hist.* XXIII, 1903, p. 402 (Labruzzi, iv, 3).

² *l.c.* IV, p. 78 and tav. 3; cf. Tersenghi, *l.c.* p. 303; De la Blanchère, *l.c.* p. 6.

Civitana. — A short distance beyond Cento Archi the branch road already mentioned reaches some remains known as Civitana (marked as Torre Monaci on the map of the Istituto Geografico Militare). These stand upon a large terrace measuring 120 m. from north to south. The retaining wall is visible to a considerable extent. Thus, at the northwest corner there is a concrete wall faced with selce, about 3 m. high at the corner and running east for a distance of 10 m., where it

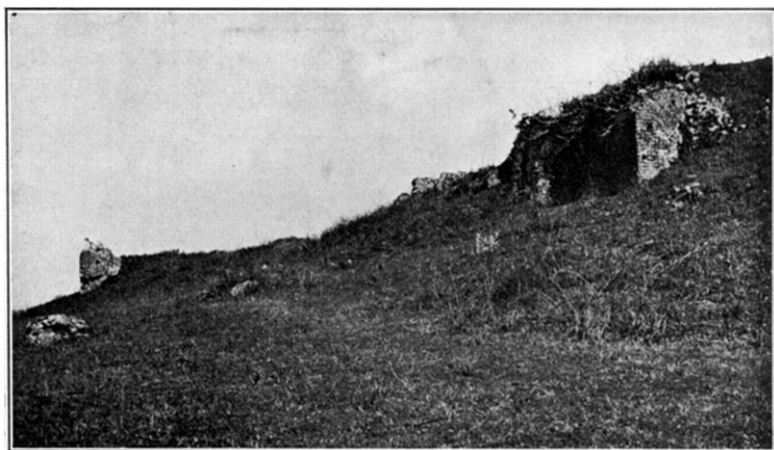


FIGURE 17. — CIVITANA. RETAINING WALL.

disappears in the ground. In the middle of the western side of the terrace it is again visible for about 10 m. Here there is one buttress. From this point it appears in small patches, until, at the southwest corner, there is a stretch of 15 m. with two buttresses about 6 m. high. It then continues around the south side of the terrace for about 10 m., where it again disappears in the ground. The top stones are visible projecting out of the ground all along the south and east sides (Fig. 17).

Upon this terrace all that remains at present are the walls of a rectangular building 25.80 m. \times 11.60 m. in dimensions, with its long axis running from north to south, and divided longitudinally into two chambers by a wall 0.90 m. thick.¹ The walls are built of *opus reticulatum* of tufa and selce with bond-

¹ On my visit I failed to note the dividing wall, but this omission has been corrected by Dr. Ashby.

ing courses of brick. Exactly similar construction is found in the Villa of Hadrian at Tivoli, and these walls may therefore date from the same period.¹ From the east and west walls, at a height of 2.80 m., rise the beginnings of the vaulted roofs.

The north wall of the enclosure has been greatly damaged, although it was built up again in a later period. In the upper part near its eastern end is a small rectangular window. There are now no traces of any ancient door or means of entrance into the enclosure, and the structure is in all probability a reservoir.

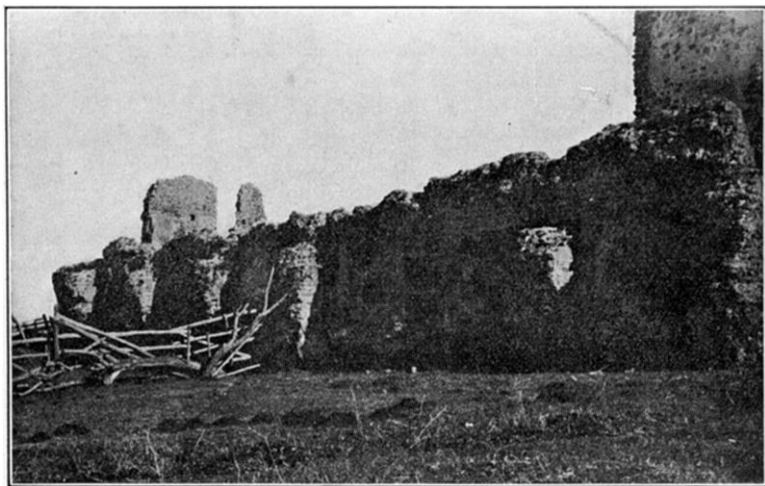


FIGURE 18. — CIVITANA. WALLS AND BUTTRESSES.

The walls are strengthened on the outside by a number of buttresses of the same construction as the walls. Of these there are seven on the east and west sides, four on the south, and three on the north, where, however, there was probably a fourth which has been destroyed (Fig. 18).

East of the main building, in line with the north wall and at a distance of 28 m., are three low mounds of concrete, which would indicate the existence of walls at one time.

¹ De la Blanchère, indeed, found here a brick-stamp of 123 A.D., *C.I.L.* XV, 549 e. 52 (*Mél. Arch. Hist.* II, 1882, p. 463). Cf. *C.I.L.* XV, 551 a. 3 (about the same date), found by him in some other ruins in this district, the site of which he does not more accurately indicate. (T. A.)

De la Blanchère¹ states that here in the Middle Ages was the centre of a large estate and that there were numerous buildings, all of them built within and upon old Roman constructions. The building now standing contained the church. Volpi² gives two drawings of Civitana, one an outside view showing the buttresses, the other a view of the interior. In the latter he shows a tower which has since been demolished, but he gives no indication of any division.

Ponte delle Incudini. — At a distance of about five kilometres from Velletri lies the district to which is given the name of "Incudini" (anvils). The name is derived unquestionably

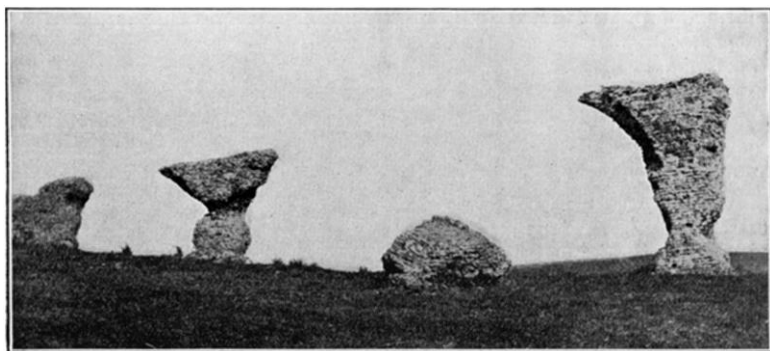


FIGURE 19. — INCUDINI. AQUEDUCT.

from the shape of the remains of an aqueduct which are found here (Fig. 19).

At the point where the aqueduct is preserved it is crossing from west to east a small valley about 150 m. wide between two ridges. At its western end the structure upon which the specus ran immediately after leaving the ground is still standing. Then follow four pillars for the support of the arches, of which the first and third are still standing upright, while the second and fourth have fallen. The width of the pillars is about 4.50 m. and the height of the third and highest arch is 5 m. The material is *opus mixtum*.³

In the centre of the valley no part of the aqueduct is left;

¹ 'Un Chapitre de l'Histoire Pontine,' p. 7. ² *l.c.* IV, tav. 4.

³ Cf. *Mél. Arch. Hist.* XXIII, 1903, p. 403 (Labruzzi, IV, 5).

but on the east side are the lower portions of three pillars. There is no means of knowing what locality was supplied with water by this aqueduct.

To the northeast of the aqueduct at a distance of 1.50 m. is a small water-reservoir consisting of a single chamber of the dimensions of 9.50 m. \times 2.20 m., with a vaulted roof 1.90 m. high. The outside of this forms a rectangular platform. It is built of concrete, and the interior is lined with *opus signinum*.

On each side of the Via Appia at this point is a terrace supported by ancient retaining walls of concrete, that on the north (Fig. 20) being 50 m. distant from the road, that on the south 150 m.

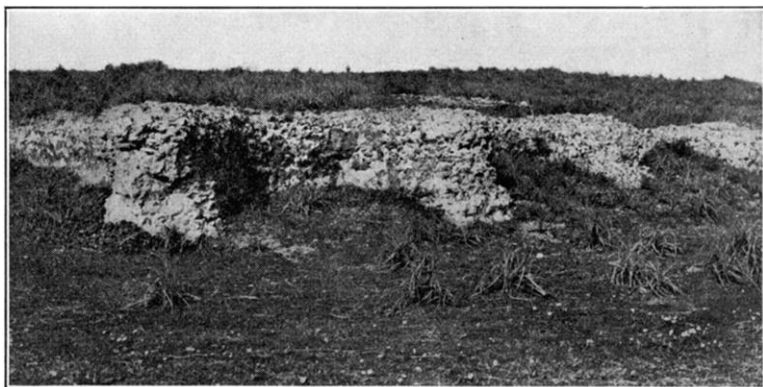


FIGURE 20. — INCUDINI. TERRACE.

Vigna Mercadora. — In the Vigna Mercadora, a short distance northwest of Incudini and to the left of the Via Appia, are a number of scattered walls indicating the presence of a rather extensive villa. In particular, there is a long retaining wall extending from east to west for a distance of 100 m. Several fragments of walls faced with *opus reticulatum* are visible, and in one place two ancient steps.

Along the Via Appia, the Roman pavement of which is frequently visible, between this point and Incudini, there are on either side of the road the remains of several tombs. None of these are of especial interest except one, of which only the foundations are left. It is in the shape of a Greek cross, each pair of arms measuring 6 m. in length, and each arm being

1.70 m. wide. Each arm was divided into three compartments by two parallel walls.

Troncavia. — The statue of Minerva known as the Pallas of Velletri, now in the Louvre, was discovered in 1797 in the locality of Troncavia or Corti, about two kilometres from Velletri,¹ and a bust of Tiberius was found here in 1817.² Very recently there was found in the same locality in the Vigna Paparella a portion of a fine marble lamp,³ and at the same time ancient walls and water pipes of lead and terra-cotta were seen.⁴ A fine Gorgon's head in terra-cotta had been found there a few years before. There is still visible a water-reservoir consisting of four chambers, each measuring 12. m. \times 2.90 m. Two of these are connected by three openings, each 2.90 m. wide, of the same shape as those in the reservoir at San Cesareo. Between the second and third chambers and the third and fourth only two openings in each case are preserved. They are of the usual rounded shape.

Cento Cappelle. — In *Not. Scav.* 1878, p. 38, there is a report of the discovery of some ancient walls in the district known as Cento Cappelle, near the town of Lariano, about four kilometres from Velletri. The brick-stamp *C.I.L.* XV, 702, 14 (Hadrian) was found at that time, and still earlier, in 1872, three statues of athletes were discovered here.⁵ At the present time there is visible only an artificial terrace, the concrete retaining walls of which appear at intervals. In 1900 part of another villa was found in the wood on the slopes of the Monte Artemisio above Lariano. Remains of baths were discovered with the brick-stamps *C.I.L.* XV, 173 (a little after 138 A.D.); 1121 (first century A.D.); 2332 (first century A.D.), and in a vineyard not far off an elegant mosaic pavement belonging to another villa was found.⁶

Several other villas are known to have existed in the territory of Velletri. In some instances they have given their

¹ Visconti, *Opere Varie*, IV, p. 288; Froehner, *Notice*, No. 114; *Cat. Louvre*, No. 464.

² Baucó, *l.c.* I, p. 479.

³ Now in the museum at Velletri.

⁴ *Not. Scav.* 1909, p. 28.

⁵ *Bullettino della Commissione Archeologica Municipale*, 1876, p. 68.

⁶ *Not. Scav.* 1900, 52, 96.

names to the localities in which they were situated. In the case of many of them writers such as Borgia, Bauco, Teoli, and others state that they have seen remains of walls; but these have now almost entirely disappeared. Thus the district known as Tivera is identified as the villa of Tiberius¹; Colle Nerva, as that of the Emperor Nerva²; and so on. These identifications, of course, must not be taken too seriously. That the Emperor Caligula also had a villa here we know from Pliny,³ who speaks of the wonderful plane tree growing there, so large that a whole dinner party could find room under its branches.

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ADDENDA

(BY DR. THOMAS ASHBY)

Among the many antiquities found at Velletri, without any more precise indication of their provenance, we may note:

A colossal head of Aesculapius, a statue of Thaleia, and the head of a warrior originally from Asia Minor (Ny-Carlsberg, 91, 396, 446).

A fragment of a sarcophagus representing the banquet before the Calydonian Hunt was drawn in 1722–32 by Edme Bouchardon *a Velletri in casa d' un particolare*, but is now lost (see Robert, *Sark. Rel.* III, p. 327, No. 264²).

Volpi (*Vet. Lat.* IV, p. 37 and pl. ii) figures four Corinthian columns which he saw in the garden of the Palazzo Ginnetti, and which he attributed to the temple of Mars—without adequate reason.

Volpi, pls. v and vi, figures four sarcophagi in the Palazzo Ginnetti. One of these (vi, fig. 1), which was found at the Prato delle questiani, 9 kilometres from Velletri, some few years before 1644 (Teoli, *Teatro Storico*, p. 103), is now in the Palazzo Lancellotti, Matz-Duhn, No. 2534, and bears the inscription *Clodia Lupercillus in pace bene dormit* (see Schneider in *Nuovo Bull. Crist.* XIV, 1908, p. 243).

¹ Volpi, *l.c.* IV, p. 59.

² Teoli, *l.c.* p. 109; Volpi, *l.c.* IV, p. 62.

³ *Nat. Hist.* XII, 1, 5.

Fragments of other sarcophagi were found with it, so that it probably formed part of a Christian cemetery attached to one of the smaller centres of population.¹

Volpi, *op. cit.* p. 78, pl. vii, figures two busts, one of Pertinax, the other of a philosopher, both in the Palazzo Borgia. The former was found about 1650 (Borgia, *Storia di Velletri*, p. 94; cf. *Memorie Romane*, III, p. 83, pl. i) and is now in the Vatican (Sala dei Busti, 289). Visconti wrongly states that it was found in the Giardino dei Mendicanti, and his statement has been accepted by Bernoulli (*Röm. Ikon.* II, 3, p. 4, note 1) and Amelung (*Sculpt. des Vat. Museums*, II, p. 485).

The terra-cotta foot in a shoe (which is interesting as showing the type of leather shoe generally found in Romano-British excavations) illustrated by Guattani (*Mon. Ant. Ined.* 1785, p. 30 and pl. ii) is said to have actually been found in Velletri; it looks like an *ex voto* from some temple or shrine. It was in the Borgia Museum and has no doubt passed to Naples with it.

Among other objects found in the territory of Velletri we may notice a relief in bronze representing the construction of the *Argo*, with Pallas and Hermes standing by Argos (cf. Fea, *Storia dell'Arte*, II, p. 51; Cardinali in *Memorie Romane*, I, i, p. 130), which passed as soon as it was discovered to the Museo Borgia and thence to Naples. We may also note the *piombi Veliterni*. Cf. Visconti, *Opere Varie*, II, p. 33. The majority of the objects in the Museo Borgia, however, came from Rome (*C.I.L.* X, p. 652).

A hoard of consular coins was found not long before 1825, probably not far from Troncavia, where the Pallas of Velletri was discovered; and at the beginning of this year two fine heads, some necklaces, a torso, and a bronze statue were also discovered. (Cf. Cardinali in *Memorie Romane*, II, p. 313.)

For an interesting Christian sarcophagus of the fourth century A.D. in the courtyard of the Scuole Normali, see *Bull. Crist.* 1894, p. 176.

Another object said to have been found near Velletri is a small circular bronze plaque, belonging to the collar of a slave, now preserved in a private collection in Paris. It bears the inscription, *Asellus servus Praeiectionis praefecti annonae foras murum exivit tene me quia fugi reduc me ad Floram ad tonsores*. (Hülsemann in

¹ I hope to deal more in detail with the collection of sculptures once preserved in the Palazzo Ginnetti (where a few objects only still remain) on another occasion. In most cases it is by no means certain that they were actually found in or near Velletri.

Röm. Mitt. VI, 1891, p. 341; De Rossi in *B. Com. Rom.* XXI, 1893, p. 186.)

Over the door of the Chiesa del Preziosissimo Sangue is a marble sundial, of the usual concave shape, resting on two clawed (griffin's) feet, with an inscription stating that it was *erutum in agro Veliterno*.

In the municipal palace is a relief representing a female figure reclining, said to have been found on the Via Appia, forming, possibly, part of the tympanum of a temple. The back and the top are left rough.

In a vineyard below the station a headless and armless marble statue of a male person clad in the toga was found in 1882. On the base is the inscription

D(is) M(anibus) T. Fl(avio) Caralitano P P
Fl(avia) Evagria marito pientissimo

(*Not. Scav.* 1882, 434; *Eph. Ep.* VIII, p. 158, No. 644). It is now in the Palazzo Ginnetti.

At a site called Campo Palazzo, some 300 paces from the Porta Napolitana, in some ancient vaulted structures, a tile bearing the stamp *C. I. L.* XV, 1091 was found before 1751 (Piacentini, *Comm. graecae pronunc.* p. 38).